GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4149
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
EARTHQUAKE RELIEF OPERATION BY IRCS
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) deployed more than 180 foreign delegates for its work in earthquake affected areas of Gujarat in February,2001 and a large number of them continued to work during 2002-03 and 2003-04 ;

(b) if so, the authority responsible for taking such a decision ;

(c) whether the Union Government was consulted in this regard;

(d) if so, the cost of their maintenance (travel, salaries ,accommodation and all other amenities) till Macrh,2004 and the name of the agency which met this cost;

(e) whether full control and operation of earthquake relief was handed over by the IRCS to the International Federation of Red Cross ,Geneva; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) : The national headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society have informed that after the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, medical, water, sanitation, logistics and other Emergency Response Units, from various countries consisting technical and medical experts, came in Gujarat for rescue, relief and medical services of the affected population. Later on, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC&RCS) set up India Operation Centre to provide technical, human and financial support to the Indian Red Cross Society for relief and rehabilitation. The India Operation Centre got a project office status from the Government of India and its office continues to be in New Delhi. At present, there are only three foreign delegates in the International Federation office working with the Indian Red Cross Society. All the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Society were approved by the Disaster Mitigation Committee, Finance Committee and the Managing Body of the Society.

(c)&(d): The national headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society have informed that the Project Office has the approval of the Reserve Bank of India. The expenditure on the travel, salaries, accommodation and all other amenities is borne by the respective national Red Cross Societies or if the foreign delegates are deputed by IFRC&RCS, the Federation meets the cost.

(e)&(f): The national headquarters of Indian Red Cross Society have informed that according to the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement regulations, the IFRC&RCS supports the national Red Cross Societies and the leadership of the operations is always with national Red Cross Society. After the Gujarat earthquake also the Indian Red Cross Society was in control of operation of earthquake relief.